

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 15 to delete the language “a battery and an electric motor connectable to the battery, the motor capable of moving the support when the motor is connected to the battery”. Claim 6 has been cancelled. Therefore, the objection to the drawings and the rejection of claims 1, 3-9 and 15-21 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph have been mooted. The objection to claims 6-9 and 21 has been addressed by canceling these claims.

Claims 1, 3-5, and 15-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Duey in view of Beals and Shekalim. The instant application and US Patent 6,308,367 to Beals were, at the time the invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, the same person. See MPEP 706.02(I)(2)I and II. Therefore, Beals is removed as prior art against the instant application, obviating this rejection.

Claims 6-9 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Duey in view of Cyzer and Shekalim. Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Duey in view of Berl and Shekalim. Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Duey in view of Leira and Shekalim. Claims 6-9 and 21 have been cancelled, thus obviating these rejections.

Claims 1, 3-5, 15, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Duey in view of Bojar and Shekalim. Applicants have deleted the language from the claims to a battery and motor, and so will not address the Shekalim reference. Claim 1, from which claims 3-5 depend, calls for at least one of the two tufts to have a cross-section which is other than round in shape. In Duey all of the tufts have a round cross-section. There is no teaching or suggestion in any of the references which would motivate one skilled in the art to substitute one of the non-round tufts of Bojar for one of the round tufts of Duey. The Examiner appears to have used Applicants claim 1 as a guide to pick and choose among the prior art in an attempt to find Applicants' claims obvious. This is not allowed. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-5 are not obvious in view of these three references.

Claim 15, from which claims 18 and 20 depend, calls for a first tuft of the pair having a different cross-section than a second tuft of the pair. In Duey all of the tufts

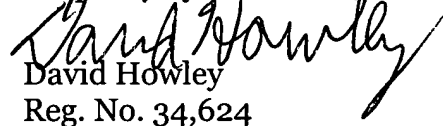
have a round cross-section. There is no teaching or suggestion in any of the references which would motivate one skilled in the art to substitute one of the non-round tufts of Bojar for one of the round tufts of Duey. The Examiner appears to have used Applicants claim 15 as a guide to pick and choose among the prior art in an attempt to find Applicants' claims obvious. This is not allowed. Accordingly, claims 1, 18 and 20 are not obvious in view of these three references.

Applicants believe the present claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

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